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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

WOMAN INDICTED IN THEFT FROM PERF ACCOUNTS

Christina McKee, Temporary Acting United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana, announced that SHAUNNA L. STONE, 34, Indianapolis, Indiana, was charged today in a 14 count indictment alleging bank fraud and misusing social security numbers, following an investigation by the Indiana State Police, United States Secret Service, Internal Revenue Service-Criminal Investigation, and the Indianapolis Police Department.

The indictment alleges that between about September 18, 2001 and about March, 2003, STONE knowingly obtained approximately \$22,586.64 in funds held in member accounts at the Public Employees Retirement Fund (PERF), through the use of false and fraudulent pretenses, representations and promises. Between September 18, 2001 to May 30, 2002, STONE allegedly worked as a temporary PERF employee and had access to account information relating to

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members and beneficiaries. STONE allegedly accessed PERF's computer system on numerous occasions and caused it to issue ten unauthorized checks drawn on PERF bank accounts. These checks were then cashed.

The indictment also alleges in 13 counts that STONE misused the social security numbers of 7 PERF members and one other person to obtain and use lines of credit at 7 different Indianapolis businesses. This allegedly resulted in the misuse of credit lines in the total amount of approximately \$26,458.64.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Steven D. DeBrot, who is prosecuting this case for the government, if convicted, STONE faces a maximum possible prison sentence of 30 years and a maximum possible fine of \$1,000,000 for bank fraud, and a maximum possible prison sentence of five years and a maximum possible fine of \$250,000 for each count of misusing a social security number.

The investigation is ongoing and is being conducted with the full cooperation and assistance of PERF personnel.

The Indictment is an allegation only, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty at trial or by guilty plea.

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